

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100778 TOSEC 110148

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100778 TOSEC 110148

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FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF APRIL 25

REF: SECTO 11080

1. I HAVE CHECKED WITH ALL RELEVANT OFFICERS OF EA, PM AND EB. I AM SATISFIED THAT NO ONE IN THOSE BUREAUS HAS TALKED TO GELB RECENTLY ON THIS OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT. GELB DID TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE EAST-WEST TRADE PEOPLE IN EB LAST WEEK, PRESUMABLY ON THIS STORY, BUT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING CONTACT. I ALSO SPOKE WITH DICK SOLOMON WHO DID TALK TO GELB LAST WEEK BUT SOLOMON SAID HE TRIED TO TURN GELB OFF THE STORY AND EMPHATICALLY DENIES THAT ANY OF THE QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CAME FROM HIM.

2. THIS LEAVES DEFENSE AND COMMERCE AS POSSIBLE SOURCES.

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PAGE 02 STATE 100778 TOSEC 110148

MORT ABRAMOWITZ LEFT WASHINGTON LAST FRIDAY AND PRESUMABLY

MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE OF THOSE WITH WHOM GELB WOULD ORDINARILY TOUCH BASE. ABRAMOWITZ WILL NOT BE BACK IN TOWN FOR A WEEK OR SO THEREFORE I CANNOT CHECK WITH HIM DIRECTLY.

3. THE FACT THAT GELB CITES SENIOR ADMINISTRATION SOURCES FOR HIS ACTUAL QUOTES LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE DID NOT

GET ANYTHING OF THAT SORT IN THE DEPARTMENT. AS YOU KNOW, HE IS NOT LOATHE TO CITE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES WHEN HE HAS THEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, GELB WOULD NOT MAKE UP THINGS THAT HE PUTS IN QUOTATION MARKS, SO IT IS QUITE CLEAR SOMEBODY SAID THOSE THINGS. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE

TO FIND OUT WHO IT MIGHT BE. AS TO SOME OF THE SPECIFIC COMMODITY CASES CITED IN THE ARTICLE, THIS INFORMATION COULD COME FROM ANY NUMBER OF SOURCES, INCLUDING GAO REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS. THIS IS EQUALLY TRUE FOR HIS GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE COCOM CONNECTION.

4. THIS IS ALL THE LIGHT I CAN SHED ON THE MATTER FOR THE SECRETARY AT THIS POINT. I WILL PURSUE IT FURTHER AS BEST I CAN. IT IS CLEAR HOWEVER THAT GELB WAS ALL OVER TOWN IN CHASE OF THIS STORY AND THAT HIS SOURCES ARE PLURAL RATHER THAN SINGULAR. SISCO

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